whole summary of his speech is that he is not satisfied with the conduct of the members of this House. Because of the fact that the Chief Medical Officer is very interested in the working of his department as any one of us, why should we criticise or discuss any matter of this kind is the question. Please don't try to bamboozle us. We can understand your tactics. As I said before, if it was removed on the very day on which the present small set was installed there, then I could understand the reason. If it had been removed on the same day then your argument would hold water. Any way, as the Hon'ble Member has announced that he is sparing no pains in this matter, I do not intend to press the motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* We shall wait and see.

Cut motion, by leave, withdrawn

Demand under 23 Medical minus Rs. 2 was put and carried.

17 Medical Cranganur—Rs. 13,589

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer):* Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 13,589 under "17 Medical—Cranganur".

Demand put and carried

1 Land Revenue—Rs. 4,96,949

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Sir, I beg to move for an allotment of Rs. 4,96,949 under "1—Land Revenue". In making this demand before the House I wish to make reference to one or two new features of the Department. But for this I do not think it would have been necessary for me to make any speech in asking for this allotment. This year there are two special items for which I have to move in moving the Budget for Land revenue. Those are (1) with reference to the opening of the statistical branch attached to the revenue Department and (2) the appointment of a Special Assistant, for the distribution of the compensation that is being sent to this Government for distribution among the dependents of deceased persons or to persons who have been made incapable of working from among those, who have been recruited from here to Ceylon and Assam. These two special characteristics of my department require at least a passing mention so that the House may know the broad details of the working of these two sections.

First I take the Statistical Branch. There are also one or two cut motions in regard to this and the Hon'ble Members may understand the way in which the department is worked, the purpose for which the department works and the results which are sought to be achieved by the working of this section of the department. At the outset I would say that the necessity for the bringing into existence of such a section in the Revenue Department was felt for the first time keenly, though it might have been there before to some extent, after the Food Supply Department or rather the food control measures which preceded the Food Supply Department came into existence or was brought in force. The implications of the food supply measures or rather the the food control measures are well known to this House from the very beginning. The basis of the working of the Department requires correct statistics as to what is the quantity of the various products that is produced and what is the quantity of the various commodities which are required for our daily requirements. The working of that Department thus required a knowledge of what was being produced here, what was being imported here and what was being exported from here and what quantity was left for consumption in the State. This necessarily led to the necessity of finding out the acreage under cultivation for each of those products which we want, and apart from the acreage, what was the yield per acre of those products which were produced here. This is so far as the agricultural products are concerned. Then came the necessity for knowing details with regard to products which are not produced here but which are required for our consumption, namely articles like sugar, etc., which are manufactured products, manufactured outside. That meant an investigation into trade statistics. Though the question of the statistics of the prices was not of such great importance for the purpose of solving the problem in those days, still these two questions always loom large in the eyes of the administrator, especially in a State in which the foodstuffs that are necessary and the other things that are necessary are being brought down from outside. We are living and we live entirely on the goodwill of the other Governments or other Provinces and also on the goodwill of the Central Government who give us quotas to supplement our produce and our manufactured commodities. Well, having felt that necessity, the matter was considered by the Government and an officer was sent out from here to Madras to learn the methods of collecting statistics and work out the necessary data for arriving at correct conclusions on these matters. Whenever it

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became necessary for us to seek the help of other Governments in getting the necessary articles of foodstuff in which we were deficit, the Government who was being approached, that is the Central Government, or any other Provincial Government used to ask us what our consumption was, what our production was and what was our deficit, which they should give us. The further question that they asked was what was it that that Province used to give us, whatever the quantity you got from Bombay or Madras and so on. That was also necessary so that the burden of supply may as far as possible be distributed among these other Provinces, first among those provinces who were supplying us in the usual course and then among other Provinces which were not supplying us but which could be chosen to take the place of those who were supplying. For instance Burma, though not a Province of India, was supplying us with rice. Next to that Madras also was supplying us with rice. When Burma was lost, Burma had to be replaced not by one Province, but by a number of Provinces, for making up the shortage as far as possible. Madras could be approached first as Madras was supplying us before; each Province wanted us to say what exactly we were getting from each of them. Therefore the question of trade statistics came into prominence. We were getting commodities from Karachi, Bombay and other places and those statistics became necessary. This branch was therefore established for that purpose to see that we get correct figures with reference to those things so that we may satisfy the Central Government with correct figures and get our quota from the surplus Provinces. One Statistical Officer was sent to Madras for training for a definite period.

The question was asked by one of the Hon'ble Members of this House the other day in connection with a supplementary question as to why this section is attached to the Revenue Department. Of course then I was not able to give in full the detailed reasons, that being questions and answers time. Now, the reasons are obvious, if we go into the nature of the statistics that we are collecting. Now the chief item of statistics that we are able to collect is the statistics with reference to the production of commodities. Production is a thing the figures about which are necessarily available only to the land Revenue Department They are the only persons who have got information about the area under cultivation. They can easily refer to the books and find out the extent of paddy cultivation, the extent of cocoanut cultivation, the extent of arecanut cultivation, the extent of ground nut cultivation and so on and so forth. Naturally therefore we have got the figures with reference to each of these crops in the Revenue Department. No other department will be able to give the correct figures with regard to this particular. That work has to be done by the staff of the Revenue Department. Therefore as far as statistics of production is concerned, the one Department that can do anything with regard to this matter is the Revenue Department. I said we have the trade statistics also. But trade statistics no doubt is only a subsidiary portion of the work of the statistical section. Trade statistics can be collected by anybody sitting in the office. Trade statistics relate to movements of commodities from outside into our State and from this State outside. Trade moves through four channels: One is the sea, the other is the rail, the third is the backwater which is a special characteristic of this State and Travancore and the fourth is by cart traffic on the road. These four constitute the movement of goods. With reference to the movement by sea the information can be had from the customs office. It is immaterial which department deals with this. The only thing is that it should be done by a Department which is acquainted with the methods of collection of these statistics and grouping them under the several heads. So also with reference to the movement by Rail of commodities. If the Railway Company is asked, and that is the only channel which can give us correct figures, any Department can get the necessary figures. Next we come to the movement through backwater and closely allied to that is the movement through road. For this no special staff is necessary to get the information. The outposts of the Excise Department are the agency through which we can collect these statistics. The figures with reference to import and export of various commodities can be most effectively collected by those persons. The compilation of these trade statistics also can be done by any other Department. But since the major portion of the statistical work has to be done by the Revenue Department and that Department had to study all aspects of the question, it was but right and natural that that department must be asked to undertake the whole work of statistics. In Madras and in most of the other British Indian Provinces also it is so. In Madras once it was entrusted to the Agricultural Department. It was then found that that department was not doing that work sufficiently well. It was then transferred to the Industries Department. There also it was found that that was not fully successful. Then a section for this was opened in the Revenue Board and was attached to the Revenue Board. It forms part and parcel of the Revenue Board now and the statistical branch is a section of the Revenue

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Board of the Madras Province where they get from the Industries Department, from the Agricultural Department and from the Railways and the Customs, all the figures which they want. No doubt in the matter of collection of agricultural statistics we do require the assistance of the Agricultural Department also. We are as I said not only collecting and preparing statistics of the acreage under production of the various commodities that are produced in the State but doing something else also. It is not sufficient to have merely figures representing the areas under production. We must also know the average output of each of these commodities or rather the average yield of these commodities over a unit of land or an acre or a cent of land. Now that is achieved by what is technically called the crop cutting experiment. These crop cutting experiments with reference to the major produce, namely paddy, are to be conducted in co-operation with the Agricultural Department, and the results verified and checked so that we might arrive at the most correct figures with reference to yield. To that extent the co-operation of the Agricultural Department is necessary. This would show that the co-operation of other departments is necessary for one item or other. But the major portion of the work has to be done by the Revenue Department and the agency through whom these figures have to be collected is the Revenue Inspectors, and the village staff. Naturally therefore that deparment which employs this agency must be in charge of this work. That is the reason why the Government chose the Revenue Department for this work.

Having said so much, I now propose to deal a little more in detail with reference to the item of work done under each of these heads, *viz.*, the collection of agricultural statistics, the collection of trade statistics and the preparation of the cost of living index. These are the major items of work which we are trying to attempt. There will be several other items which are of minor importance and so I do not now propose to elaborate upon them. Wih reference to agricultural statistics, as everybody knows, the main items of which statistics are necessary in this place are paddy, cocoanuts, arecanuts, tapioca, and ground nuts. Now with reference to each of these there is a method chalked out as in other parts of India for the collection of statistics. Firstly we are trying to arrive at, so far as paddy is concerned, what exactly is the area under cultivation of one-crop lands, two-crop lands and three-crop lands. There may be very rare cases no doubt in which there are three crops. It is rather a difficult process to cultivate three crops. That is why I said such instances are very rare. It requires great enthusiasm and a vigorous process of manuring and there should be sufficient water for all the three crops. For the first crop, some times it so happens that you get more water and your crops are spoiled by floods. That has to be cultivated by draining of the water. Therefore in most cases it is difficult to have a paddy land from which three crops can be raised. There are some lands on which three crops are being raised. In addition to these you have the Moden cultivation and the hill paddy cultivation also. The hill paddy cultivation is going on or has been going on for some time. Figures to reference to all these have to be collected. Then there are field over which occasional double crops are raised, occasional in the sense in the years in which we have the north east monsoon favourable, years in which we have not very great dry season during the months of Meenam and Medam. In such years occasional double crop was being attempted and is being attempted, by people. These are also to be taken into consideration, so that all the areas in which both permanently and occasionally crops are grown—lands cultivated on account of the food production drive and by the grant of additional facilities for production of paddy—all these lands will be inspected and the yields of all these lands will be taken into consideration. Thus we arrive at the area under cultivation and the various crops classified and finally settled. Then we go to the ascertainment of the yield with reference to each of these kinds. For that in every village crop-cutting experiments will be conducted with the co-operation of the officers of the Agricultural Department. There is a method which is laid down for this purpose. It has been followed in the Madras Presidency for years and years together by resorting to which they have found out the average standard yield for the whole of the Presidency and for some of the districts separately. We are going to follow the same method here. The crop cutting experiment will be made with reference to the paddy raised for the three main crops, *viz.*, Virippu, Mundakan and Puncha or Kole. For all these, crop cutting experiments will be done in years in which they are cultivated and then by a process of averaging, we will arrive at the standard yield for the State and on the basis of that standard yield we shall get the figure of the total quantity that is produced in an average year in the State. On the basis of that we have to make representations to the Central Government for each year's demand in this way. We have got three crops. We have been asked to report to the Government of India what is the forecast of each crop. That we have to make before the actual crop is harvested. A few days before the

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crop is harvested, we have to make our representations as to what is our forecast. That is evidently because they want to allocate to each Province and State from the available quantity at the hands of the Central Government for each of these deficit States according to the availability of the stuff and also ear-mark that such and such a Province or State will get from such and such a Province or State. It is for that purpose.

Then after that, how is that forecast to be made is the question. We have got a standard. First arrive at the standard, the average yield of the whole State. Then we have to take into consideration the vicissitudes of the season. This year we have not had sufficient rain. As everybody who is connected with agriculture knows this will have adverse effect on the average yield. No doubt there has not been devastation of complete areas. No area has been left uncultivated. No area has been fully damaged. No in that sense. But the yield has necessarily been affected. If we do not get sufficient rains in proper time the yield goes down though the field may appear to be perfectly healthy and well planted. It may show every sign of a healthy growth, but still when the yield comes, if at the proper time we have not got sufficient rain, the yield goes down. What is the average reduction in the yield? By a process of contact with agriculturists and those in possession of land and cultivation of land one must be in a position to say what would be the probable diminution in the yield this year. Upon these things we give a forecast. After the whole harvest is over we have to report as to what exactly has been our realisation of the forecast. This we have to do with reference to all the three main crops, Viruppu, Mundakan and Puncha. These are the several processes by which we have to estimate and collect statistics with reference to each Taluk and by that process we assess the actual yield of each of these various crops throughout the year for the whole State. For this, the Village Officers are being instructed and thus got trained. Of course the first year may not yield very good results because everything depends upon experience. So far as paddy is concerned that is the process. This process will be repeated so far as arecanut, tapioca, cocoanut and ground-nut are concerned. Leaving agricultural statistics, we are collecting in addition to this, coffee statistics, rubber statistics and tea statistics with special preference to production and acreage. But rubber is not valuable as a food-crop; but coffee and tea are so valuable.

I next come to the trade statistics. As I said at the outset trade statistics are to be collected through 4 channels. The two chief agencies which would give us the most correct figure with reference to the movements of commodities are the customs and the railway. The others, canals and cart-traffic, consist carpentering of small internal movements. They are not external movements and naturally therefore the figures that we may collect for them will be of minor importance. But all the same they will be collected every year. That is so far as quantity is concerned. Then we have got with reference to prices. With reference to prices, we are arranging the publication of prices both wholesale and retail. With reference to retail prices, the Headquarters of the several Taluks and, in addition, Mattancheri also, have been selected as the places for which statistics of prices will be collected and published in the Gazette or in newspapers. Then we have got the wholesale prices. For wholesale prices it is unnecessary to go to all the Taluk Headquarters because wholesale prices that rule in Mattancheri and Trichur will be the guiding prices, with reference to the wholesale prices in other localities. Therefore these are the only two places selected for this purpose and there the agencies that are selected are not at present the Tahsildars. So far as Cochin is concerned the Indian Chamber of Commerce, being a very accredited body with proper facilities for collecting these statistics of wholesale prices, that agency is being tried and correspondence is going on. With reference to Trichur there is no such agency there and therefore we use the ordinary agency of the Tahsildar. That finishes the collection of statistics of prices both wholesale and retail. That is insufficient to satisfy the requirements of Statistical Section of any Government with reference to prices. We must find out what were the prices of most of these essential commodities in normal times and correlate the present prices to the prices in those normal times. That alone will tell us what has been the increase or decrease with reference to normal prices ruling here as well as in the whole world and from that alone we will be in a position to understand how the economic position of the people has been affected. That is a thing which can be done from the Office. That will also be done.

Having touched upon these things I will come to the last item, that is the preparation of the cost of living index. That involves a laborious process. For the preparation of the cost of living index the usual method that is adopted in other parts of India, in most Provinces, is to get it done through Special Officers, who are well-versed in the process and who are well-versed in the theory of economics, who have had a grounding in all these matters. We have selected for this work the professors of economics of both the Maharaja's College here in this centre and the St. Thomas'

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College in Trichur. These professors are to be assisted by three investigators each and they will find out what exactly has been the budget of each kind of labourer who has been working in these several places during normal times, what exactly was the proportion of his earnings that be spent for each of his needs. For instance if a man's income is Rs. 100 what percentage of that constituted his expenditure under food, what percentage constituted his expenditure for clothing, what percentage for fuel and lighting and what percentage for other necessities, such as, education, medicine and such other thing. There are certain heads under which each of these has been grouped and investigation has to be made by these officers through their investigators into the proportion of these items that would go to make the complete budget. We have selected for these two areas, that is to say, Willingdon Island, Mattancheri and Ernakulam together as one area, Trichur as another area, so far as urban population is concerned, because these are places where we have got major industrial concerns. Then in Trichur, we have also selected apart from the urban areas 3 other places which are of industrial importance though not really of the same type as Trichur in the matter of urbanness. One is Chalakkudi which is growing in importance because of the Potteries, the Saw Mills, the Plywood Factory, and the Anamalais Road work. Then there is the Amballur Textiles at Amballur. Then there is Ollur where there is a number of Tile Factories. Here of course everybody knows the kind of organised labour that we have got. So also so far as Trichur is concerned. We have selected these typical areas for this investigation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: On a point of order, Sir, the Standing Order with regard to the duration of a speech is being flagrantly violated by the Hon'ble Member for Revenue. There are 15 cuts standing him.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I thought that this being a new subject I might take a little more time. If that indulgence is not to be shown to me, I have no objection. Anyhow I shall try to be as brief as possible. In the matter of finding out the cost of living index apart from these things which make a poor man's budget, we have to find out again the normal times during which he was living when his budget would be normally adjusted, according to his own normal needs. At present we have got many difficulties. The man's purse may have become bigger. The rich man might have a lot of money and the poor labourer also gets much more than what he probably expected to get in his life. But the commodities which he can command are so small and the quantities of these commodities which he can command are so small that the proportion which he was accustomed to in olden days can never be kept up. Therefore we have to go back in our investigation to the normal period. Investigations are rather difficult and therefore very careful attempts have to be made to get at correct figures. It will take some time. We have estimated 6 months—they estimated 8 months—and we have started work. We hope by the end of this English year we will be able to say where we are. So much with reference with the cost of living index. The major portion of the work in the Statistical Section is thus finished.

I have got only a few words to say with reference to the Special Assistant. As every body knows we have sent a large number of people from here and we are also still sending to outside places like Assam and Ceylone for the road work and other war work. Compensation is being awarded by the Government of India who is the employer, to the dependants of all those who are dead. Rs. 900, is given without any dinstinction to those whose claims are admitted, that is whose death is considered attributable to the employment after he was recruited. Then there is compensation for injuries which incapacitate the man either permanently or for a long period. In such cases also though the man is not dead compensation is being given to him so that nobody should feel aggrieved by the fact that on account of the recruitment an earning member of the family has been taken away from that family. To the extent to which one can compensate, to the extent to which the law has allowed it or the law says that compensation must be given, compensation is given. As soon as death takes place a report of death is made, the causes which led to the death are enquired into, because it is very important—that is the thing which enables the Commissioner of Labour at Shillong who is the officer who says whether this case is admissible or not for compensation—to say whether a claim is admissible or not. That Officer who has been appointed by the Government of India to find out whether any claim for compensation is admissible under the rules has to be supplied with the report from the authorities concerned saying that this man's death was attributable to such and such a cause. When that report goes to him he says, "Alright. This man's dependants will get such and such an amount, that is Rs. 900". That amount is sent to this State for being distributed among his dependants. Now this State thereafter transfers that amount to my Department and we have to find out who the dependants are. "Dependants" is a term which is defined by law. Certain classes of persons come under that. An investigation into that question is being made both from enquiries made

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by the Department and also by notification in the Gazette and local papers, by inviting claims from those who claim to be dependants, giving them sufficient time. Originally we thought that 15 days would be enough but that was considered inadequate. It has now been extended to one month. We advertise in the papers and in the Gazette calling for the claims of all persons who claim to be dependants of the deceased and when those claims are received we give information to those persons who have put in claims saying, "Your case is posted to such and such a date" and then the Special Officer who is appointed for this purpose to assist the Diwan Peishkar in the distribution of this amount tours from place to place, fixes a number of centres for his camp and selects the number of cases to be posted there and posts a number of cases to each of these places and hears all those who come there and after taking evidence, decides as to who are the dependants and who are not, and if there are more dependants than one, decides also the proportion in which the amount has to be distributed among those dependants. In case of minors—it so happens that there are minors because most of these persons who went away from here are youngsters in full youth and they have got children—what is being done is that the share which falls to each is proposed to be invested. They are given from out of that the interest and a portion of the principal sufficient for their maintenance. The rest is being invested. That is the way in which this is being done. Out of the total number of cases received we have done the work with reference to nearly half. The work with regard to the other half is in progress. As quickly as possible the work will be done. The one thing that has to be remembered is this. The responsibility of finding out the true dependants rests on this Government. The amount that is allotted by the Government of India is sent over here and has to be distributed among all those who are the real dependants. If one person is missed and if that person comes and puts his claim afterwards then the question will have to be considered as to whether that person also should not be given and if so, from which fund. Therefore this requires an elaborate process of calling for claims to be published in the papers and the Gazette and subsequent enquiry. It involves time and labour.

With these few explanatory words I request the House to kindly grant me Rs. 4,96,949 under "1. Land Revenue Proper".

CUT MOTION No.

Inordinate delay in the disposal of L. A. files

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, the cut motion that stands in my name reads thus: To reduce the allotment of Rs. 87,340 under permanent establishment of the Diwan Peishkar by Re. 1: *To condemn the inordinate delay in the disposing of land acquisition files.* The cut motion speaks for itself. We have been listening, Sir, to a very sweet speech for the last 40 minutes and more and when my Hon'ble friend in charge of the Revenue Department took so long to introduce the demand and I thought there will be some reference to this cut motion also.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I did want to make a reference to it. But I did not because I had no time and I thought I will reserve it for the answer. Even now I have no objection.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I did not hear anything said about this, Sir, that is all I say now. Question No. 61 answered during this session reveals the substance of this cut, namely, the inordinate delay in the disposal of files connected with land acquisition cases. The question was how many land acquisition files are pending disposal now and the answer was 219. How many of them were over two years old? The answer was 4. How many of them were more than one year old? 21. And less than one year old was 194. Sir, this is the picture of the land acquisition disposal of the Revenue Department. Land acquisition in the very nature of things is something which has to be done expeditiously. For some public purpose or other which the Government thinks necessary and proper, the Government orders the acquisition of certain lands—it may be for a Panchayat road in one instance, it may be for the construction of a Reading Room and Library in another, it may be for various other things of that sort which the Government decides to be a necessity. Then it is that the Departmental Head is ordered to take land acquisition proceedings. The first notification appears. Any objection upon that preferred by interested parties have to be looked into, and then only the final orders and the award are passed. This is the process, and for this in an efficient department presided over by an efficient hand like the Hon'ble Diwan Peishkar, when we see that there is inordinate delay, I do not know what the reason is. The Departmental Head is a very able hand with very large judicial training behind him, with very great legal acumen in him and with all

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that and with the innumerable number of hands under him we find delay of disposal as exhibited in answer to question No. 61. Reasons there must be, Sir. It is profitable for this House to understand what those reasons are and if it is anything that could be remedied it ought to be remedied.

Now I shall point out one or two defects of keeping these files pending. In the very nature of things it does not require much time. Objections there will be in certain cases and those have to be heard. For the Departmental Head to hear these objections and dispose of them and submit his final proposal to the Government for the second notification it cannot take so much time as is now seen to be taken now, if he is vigilant over it and when it is seen that files are kept there, there seems to be some suspicion or at any rate something objectionable and the suspicious circumstances emerge from the long delay. I shall state an instance by way of illustration. Suppose you get a paper and the Officer who is to dispose of that goes through it and makes his own opinion after hearing the parties and keeps the file pending. In the interim influences may be brought to bear upon the disposing authority which may force him to change his opinion, human nature being what it is. Supposing you had decided upon hearing parties to it in a particular manner and if that is not done immediately for some reason or other the file is kept pending and in the interim people come and represent things—they know so many things—and the next day it is seen that the original opinion taken is changed. To what can I attribute this, Sir, except to the fault of keeping such files pending? It is because you keep such files pending that you are forced to change your opinion overnight and make a report which is quite the reverse of what was originally decided upon after hearing the parties in extenso. There are such difficulties, Sir, by not disposing of the papers soon. That there is inordinate delay is clear. I, therefore, commend this cut for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, I do not wish to support the motion. The inordinate delay which has been pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri as far as land acquisition files are concerned does not appear to be very much because files over two years are indeed very few in number. Then one year old files there may be 100 or 118.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* 194.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* I think conditions are better than before. There were files pending for 4 years, some two years back and even more than that. Considering the present statistics I think the working of the department as far as land acquisition is concerned has improved. Then I think the Hon'ble Revenue Member is the Member who deserves the sympathy of this House, because every department to which Government cannot find a Departmental Head or every department which the Government want to bring into being is always shunted on to the Diwan Peishkar not only the present Diwan Peishkar but even to previous Diwan Peishkars. When Ayurvedic Department was opened it was under the Diwan Peishkar. The Statistical Department is under the Diwan Peishkar. The collection of the cost of living index is under the Diwan Peishkar. The Panchayat has been under the Diwan Peishkar. It has been the policy of the Government not only now but even before to start new departments and when the Government do not find a suitable man to be provided for, generally it is shunted on to the Diwan Peishkar.

The House rose for the day at 5 p.m.

N. S. RADHAKRISHNA SARMA

Secretary to the Council

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